FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

2 MARCH 1987

Lebanon

Damascus Talks — Syrian-Lebanese talks in Damascus over the weekend focused on the "successful implementation" of the security plan resulting from Syria's military assistance, Damascus television reported. The Lebanese delegation included Prime Minister Rashid Karami and militia leaders Nabih Birri and Walid Junblatt, while Syria was represented by Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and other officials. The Lebanese were "extremely happy" with the success of the security plan, the television said, and they urged that "outlaws" harassing Beirut residents be hunted down. They said security should be handled by one authority and rejected any form of "autonomous security" for Lebanese and Palestinians alike. The conferees also reached agreement on ideas being discussed as a basis for national reconciliation in Lebanon. In this regard, Karami told newsmen after the talks that agreement was reached on a draft plan for political reforms, according to Beirut radio.

Syria and Hizballah — Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, the spiritual leader of Hizballah, told DPA 28 February that he supports the Syrian intervention, despite the "massacre" in Al-Bastah, asserting that Hizballah would not regard a Syrian move into the southern suburb any differently from the deployment in West Beirut. The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon cited reports that some Syrian officers have threatened to turn the southern suburb into "another Hamah" if Hizballah officials maintain intransigent stands toward the Syrians. The radio also reported that the Syrian "occupation army" has banned distribution of critical newspapers, including *Al-Shira'*. As for Iran's view of the conflict between Syria and Hizballah, Tehran radio broadcast a message to Lebanese theologians from Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri, who stressed the need to strengthen Hizballah and called for the prosecution of those responsible for the "massacre" in Al-Bastah.

Palestinian Camps — A Palestinian source cited by Radio Monte Carlo confirmed that food supplies were allowed into Shatila Camp 27 February, but accused the Amal Movement of confiscating medical supplies sent to the camp. A Dutch nurse inside Burj al-Barajinah accused Amal of committing atrocities against Palestinian women who have left the camp to buy food, according to AFP. Amal-Palestinian clashes continued in the area 28 February, Beirut radio noted.

Amal Rebellion — Amal Movement statements broadcast by Beirut radio downplayed reports of a rebellion by dissident Amal elements in southern Lebanon 1 March, asserting that Amal contained the situation in "most" areas and dealt quickly with a "minor incident" in the Al-Zahrani area. In contrast, Radio Free Lebanon reported that dissidents supporting former Amal official Hasan Hashim succeeded in cutting the coastal road south of Sidon and in taking over most of Amal's positions in the south outside Al-Nabatiyah. The radio added that Hizballah has welcomed the rebellion against Nabih Birri's leadership. Reports by the PSP's clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio also indicated that Hashim's "corrective movement" has made headway. Meanwhile, Birri returned to Beirut 2 March after a lengthy stay in Damascus, according to Voice of Lebanon radio.

Libya

In its 1 March session carried on Tripoli television, the General People's Congress meeting in Sabha elected a new General People's Committee, with only 2 of the 11 secretaries retaining their portfolios. Zaydallah 'Aziz al-Salihi replaced Kamil Hasan Mansur as secretary of the Foreign Liaison Bureau. An "accountability" report delivered to the congress sharply criticized various bureau "shortcomings" and noted that Mansur personally took responsibility for the bureau's "malfunction" and "negligence." The General People's Committee for Information and Culture was also taken to task for its "harmful" mistakes.

One of the foreign policy resolutions passed by the congress stressed the efforts to make U.S. bases "targets wherever they may be in self-defense and in retaliation" for perceived threats to Libya. The resolution also emphasized the need to pressure Italy to work for the expulsion of the U.S.-NATO presence.

Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi arrived in Sabha 28 February, Tripoli radio reported. Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud welcomed the Algerian delegation 1 March, JANA noted. Other foreign guests who arrived for the celebrations of the Jamahiriyah anniversary included Yuriy Solovyev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, and PFLP Secretary General George Habash, the agency reported. According to TANJUG, PNSF leader Sa'id Musa Muragha departed Libya 1 March in protest against the presence of PLO deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir.

Iran-Iraq War

A communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio announced that Iraqi troops repulsed a 28 February offensive on the southern front. Iraqi forces inflicted "thousands" of casualties on the Iranians, the communique said, noting that three divisions of Revolutionary Guards were smashed. According to IRNA, Iraqi forces suffered more than 1,500 casualties and "heavy" material losses in the Iranian "blitz attack." A military spokesman denied Iraqi claims that three Iranian warplanes and three helicopters were downed in the Karbala'-5 theater 28 February-1 March, the agency also reported. In other action, Voice of the Masses radio cited shipping sources that the Iranian tanker *Khark* was the second large maritime target hit by Iraqi warplanes 27 February.

Iran

Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani called attention to U.S. "blunders" in its relations with the Islamic Republic, in

remarks cited by IRNA 27 February. The speaker also criticized the U.S. President's "confusion" and declared that Reagan has become a "laughing stock in political circles. In a 1 March interview with Tehran radio, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi noted that the "intense bitterness" of the Tower Report attests to the U.S. people's "crisis of confidence" in their leadership.

DRA-Pakistan

A BAKHTAR statement carried 28 February "explicitly, resolutely, and strongly" denied that Afghan warplanes bombed several Pakistani villages along the border. The statement accused Islamabad and Western "imperialist circles" of trying to "sabotage" the Geneva talks and "discredit" the DRA's "earnest policy" on national reconciliation. According to Karachi radio, 31 people were killed and 41 wounded when Afghan planes carried out 2 bombing raids on Kurram Agency 27 February. Pakistani Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo declared the raids a "matter of grave concern" and said that vigilance over the country's airspace has been increased, Karachi radio reported 28 February.

The DRA Foreign Ministry summoned the Pakistani charge to protest a 1 March reconnaissance flight over Nangarhar Province, Kabul radio reported.

Israel

Internal Differences — Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres continued their argument about an international conference during a "stormy" cabinet session 1 March, Jerusalem radio reported. Shamir subsequently told Jerusalem television that Peres will be undermining the basis of the National Unity government if he continues contacts on the international conference issue. Asked whether the government should resolve the dispute and define Israel's position on the conference, Shamir pointed out that "there is no operative proposal, and therefore there is nothing to vote on and decide about."

Col Sela' and the U.S. — Jerusalem radio reported that IDF circles reacted with "anger and resentment" to the "unwarranted" U.S. demand that the IDF block the promotion and career advance of Colonel Avi'am Sela', who is wanted for questioning by U.S. authorities in connection with the espionage activities of Jonathan Pollard. Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin partially acceded to the U.S. request by postponing the colonel's expected promotion to brigadier general while continuing with plans to offer him a more advanced post, Jerusalem television noted.

Moroccan Visitors — Four Moroccan businessmen arrived on a private visit to Israel 1 March, Jerusalem radio reported, adding that the Moroccans have nothing to do with politics and are interested in purchasing agricultural equipment.

Egypt

An Interior Ministry source stated that 51 extremist students were arrested following a violent protest against fraternization at the Bani Sawayf branch of Cairo University, MENA reported 1 March. The same source said that seven teenagers were arrested in Sawhaj 27 February after extremists incited them to set fire to a church.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 040 *2 March 1987*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

AFGHANISTAN

Alleged Attack on Pakistan 'Resolutely' Rejected ..... C 1
Pakistani 'Reconnaissance' Flight Protested ..... C 1
Soviet Withdrawal Timetable To Be Made Known *[KYODO]* ..... C 1
Soviet Friendship Treaty Anniversary Celebrated ..... C 1
USSR Communications Minister Leaves for Home ..... C 2

INDIA

Government Continuing Hostage Release Efforts ..... E 1
Delhi Comments on Border Talks With Pakistan ..... E 1
Spokesman Notes 'Progress' ..... E 1
More Troop Withdrawals Agreed ..... E 1
Pakistani Atomic Bomb Disclosure Causes 'Threat' ..... E 1
All Party Convention Supports Punjab Chief Minister ..... E 1

PAKISTAN

Reaction Continues to Recent Afghan Attacks ..... F 1
Yaqub Khan Protests 'Despicable Act' ..... F 1
Junejo Stresses Need for AWACS ..... F 1
Vows Retaliation Against Further Attacks ..... F 1
Commentary on 'Senseless Slaughter' ..... F 2
Death Toll Rises to 33 ..... F 2
Attack May Weaken Geneva Talks ..... F 3
AFP Comments on Attacks ..... F 3
Border Talks With India Begin Again 27 Feb ..... F 3
Indian Representative Meets Ziaul Haq ..... F 3
Conveys Gandhi Message to Junejo ..... F 4
'Considerable Progress' Reported ..... F 4
UK Daily Cited on Existence of Nuclear Bomb *[AFP]* ..... F 4
Nuclear 'Expert' Denies Report ..... F 4
Spokesman Says Nuclear Policy 'Clear' ..... F 4

IRAN

Musavi on U.S. 'Profound Crisis of Morale' ..... I 1
Khamene'i Issues Statement on Death of Commander ..... I 1
Velayati to UN on Iraqi 'War of Aggression' ..... I 1
Commentary Assesses Karbala'-5 Victories ..... I 2
Iraqi 'Defeats' Cause Military Command Changes ..... I 2
Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq ..... I 3
Iraqi Claim of Downing of 2 F-4's Denied ..... I 3
Further Allegations Termed 'Lies' ..... I 3
Enemy Activity Halted Near Al-'Amyah ..... I 3
'Blitz Attack' Scores New Victories ..... I 3
Four Iraqi Brigades 'Smashed' ..... I 3
1,500 Iraqis Killed, Wounded ..... I 4
Fortifications 'Captured' ..... I 4
'Newly Gained Positions' Consolidated ..... I 4
Iraqi Brigade 'Remnants' Smashed ..... I 4

Statement Details 'Timely Attack' ..... I 4
Iraqi Depots in Karbala'-5 Region Hit ..... I 5
Communique Details Basra Pounding ..... I 5
Communique No 2,761 ..... I 5

Alleged Attack on Pakistan 'Resolutely' Rejected

LD281705 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Feb 87

[BAKHTAR statement — date not specified]

[Text] Citing the propaganda machinery and high-ranking authorities of Islamabad, the Western news media claims that during the past 2 days Afghan aircraft allegedly bombed a number of regions in Pakistan, killing and injuring people.

This is not the first time the Islamabad regime — simultaneous with the start of Geneva talks — has made such an unfounded and false hue and cry on the (?instruction) of U.S. imperialism, which is trying to sabotage the Geneva talks, confuse the world's public opinion, and discredit the DRA's (?firm) and flexible stand.

However, this time the false claims of the Islamabad regime, both from the viewpoint of the dimension of its fabrications and stand, are unprecedented. Along with these fabrications, imperialist circles and Western mass media have simultaneously unleashed a hostile propaganda battle against the DRA. The objective of this deafening hue and cry and these lies is obvious. They are trying on one hand to sabotage the Geneva talks, which have entered into a very sensitive stage and which have brought hope for a political solution of the problems, and on the other hand to discredit the proposals and constructive stand of the DRA, which enjoys enormous international support. They want to create obstacles by encouraging [word indistinct] suspicion concerning the earnest policy of the DRA Government pertaining to national conciliation, compromise, understanding, and the return of the refugees to the country.

We explicitly, resolutely, and strongly reject and denounce these false claims and guided anti-Afghan propaganda battle of the Islamabad regime and the Western mass media, and proclaim that such provocations will not prevent the DRA from (?following) the policy of restoration of peace and reconciliation in the country and creating an atmosphere of understanding and good neighborliness.

As before, the DRA will continue the flexible, constructive, and principled policy aimed at attaining a durable peace in the country, the region, and the world.

Pakistani 'Reconnaissance' Flight Protested

LD020644 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0500 GMT 02 Mar 87

[Text] Kabul, March 1, BAKHTAR — The charge d'affairs of the Embassy of Pakistan in Kabul was summoned here today to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the DRA and a protest note was handed over to him by the [words indistinct] the First Political Department of that ministry.

The concerned authorities of the DRA report that, despite repeated protests lodged by the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, the military authorities of Pakistan continue their interference and interventions into the territory of the DRA.

On March 1st, 1987 a jet plane of Pakistan has intruded into the airspace of the DRA over Maroni Region and Nazian District of Nangarhar Province and returned to Pakistan after conducting a reconnaissance flight for ten minutes.

The Government of the DRA once again condemns this interventionist act of Pakistani military forces and lodges its protest with the military authorities of Pakistan.

The DRA demands the military authorities of Pakistan to put an end to such provocative action which leads to the aggravation of the situation on the borders.

Soviet Withdrawal Timetable To Be Made Known

OW281215 Tokyo KYODO in English 1203 GMT 28 Feb 87

[Text] Kabul, Feb 28, KYODO — Afghan leader Najibullah said Saturday the Soviet Union is to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan. He also predicted that the current UN-sponsored peace talks with Pakistan would come to a successful conclusion.

Najibullah said the timetable for Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan will be made known during the seventh round [of] indirect peace talks which opened in Geneva, Switzerland, on Wednesday. He made the disclosures in an exclusive interview with KYODO news service at his office in this capital city.

Najibullah said Afghanistan has taken a flexible and constructive attitude throughout the negotiations and he expects the current talks will be the last round. The outcome of the negotiations will soon be made public, but their success depends on Pakistan, which is under U.S. pressure, he said.

Some 25,000 Afghan refugees have returned home since the government declared a unilateral ceasefire on January 15, according to Najib. He added that 9,000 members of 39 anti-government groups have surrendered since that time and 5,000 political prisoners have been released. Along with its efforts for national reconciliation, Najibullah said the Afghan Government will launch a five-year economic development plan this year.

Asked about a reported rift within the Afghan Communist Party, Najib said all members are free to express their opinions but all decisions are made on the basis of unanimity.

He expressed the hope that the Governments of Afghanistan and Japan would improve bilateral relations to further friendly ties between the two nations. The two countries should join forces to prevent the world from being destroyed by nuclear weapons, he said.

Soviet Friendship Treaty Anniversary Celebrated

LD282002 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 28 Feb 87

[Excerpt] A meeting was held today at the Soviet Science and Culture building in Kabul to celebrate the 66th anniversary of the Afghan-Soviet friendship treaty.

According to a report by a BIA correspondent, the meeting was attended by Gol Dad, vice chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers and deputy chief of the Afghan-Soviet Friendship Society, members of the PDPA Central Committee, members of the Council of Ministers, and officials from the party and social organizations.

At the beginning of the meeting, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Sarfaraz Mohmand said: The treaty of 28 February 1921, the first friendship treaty between newly independent Afghanistan and the young republic of Soviet Russia, not only meets the interests of the people of the two neighboring countries but is also an important factor for peace and stability in the region.

The head of the Armed Forces' Academy of Science and the representative of the Society of Soviet Graduates in Kabul then spoke about the historical Afghan-Soviet friendship and described the role of the friendship treaty in the economic and social life of the people of Afghanistan as valuable.

Minister Counsellor of the Soviet Embassy in Kabul (Pilosev) said: The friendship treaty between the Soviet Union and Afghanistan is counted as a great diplomatic success between people of our countries. This treaty laid the strong foundation of friendship, which is based on the principles of equal rights, mutual respect, and noninterference in the internal affairs of both countries.

At the end of the meeting an interesting concert was performed by Afghan and Soviet artists. [passage omitted]

USSR Communications Minister Leaves for Home

LD271748 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Text] USSR Communications Minister Vasiliy Aleksandrovich Shamshin and his accompanying delegation left today for home after an official and friendly visit to the DRA.

The Soviet delegation was seen off at Kabul international airport by Comrade Mohammad Aslam Watanjar, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and DRA minister of communications, by personnel from that ministry, and by Ambassador of the Soviet Union to the DRA Pavel Petrovich Mozhayev.

Government Continuing Hostage Release Efforts

BK270923 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Text] The Government of India is continuing its efforts to secure the release of Dr Mikhileswar Singh, an Indian passport holder, who was kidnapped along with three U.S. nationals by terrorists in Beirut. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Eduardo Faleiro, informed the Lok Sabha that the government is in contact with all governments and organizations which may help the release of Dr Singh.

Delhi Comments on Border Talks With Pakistan

BK271401 Delhi General Overseas Service in English
1330 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Text] India and Pakistan began the second round of their negotiations on further measures to ease tension on their borders in Islamabad today. The talks are being held at the level of secretaries and follow their recent agreements reached in New Delhi on the troop pullout. Before the formal talks began this morning, the leader of the Indian delegation, Mr Alfred Gonsalves, called on the Pakistan minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Zain Noorani. They also had a separate meeting with Mr Abdus Sattar, the Pakistan foreign secretary, who is leading his country's 11-member delegation. The Indian ambassador to Pakistan, Mr S.K. Singh, and Pakistan's ambassador in New Delhi, Mr Humayun Khan, were present. According to the agency reports from Islamabad, both sides expressed satisfaction at the start of the talks over the fact that the troop pullout from the Ravi-Chenab corridor was completed as stipulated.

Spokesman Notes 'Progress'

BK011603 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 1 Mar 87

[Text] A spokesman of the Indian delegation said in Islamabad this evening that substantial progress was made today in the Indo-Pak talks on de-escalation of tension on the border. Our Islamabad correspondent says the two sides will have more discussions tomorrow. The leader of the Indian delegation, Mr Gonsalves, is scheduled to call on the Pakistan prime minister, Mr Junejo, late this evening.

More Troop Withdrawals Agreed

BK020751 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0730 GMT 2 Mar 87

[Text] India and Pakistan have agreed to withdraw their troops from the border in the Rajasthan, Sind, and Rann of Kutch sectors. In the first phase, troops in the area south of Barmer Chhor will start withdrawing immediately. The withdrawal of all defensive and offensive formatons in the section will be completed within 15 days from today. In the second phase, troops in the sectors comprising Barmer Chhor in the south and Hindumalkot, Mandi, Sadiqganj in the north will start returning to their peacetime locations from the 16th of this month.

All India Radio's Islamabad correspondent, R. K. Mathur, reports that the minutes of the consultations between Abdus Sattar, Pakistan's foreign secretary, and Mr Alfred Gonsalves, secretary in the [India] Ministry of External Affairs, were signed in Islamabad this morning. The consultations were held in pursuance of discussions in New Delhi earlier last month. The agreement says the pullout of troops would be udnertaken in a graduated manner and would be monitored through regular contacts by both sides.

Our correspondent says the Pakistani delegation has been invited to visit Delhi at an early date for discussions on further de-escalation measures. The Indian delegation is leaving Islambad for Lahore shortly on its way home.

Pakistani Atomic Bomb Disclosure Causes 'Threat'

BK020849 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 2 Mar 87

[Text] Concern was expressed in the Rajya Sabha today over press reports quoting a Pakistani nuclear scientist as saying that his country had developed an atomic weapon. A number of members from both sides associated with the Congress-I member, Mr Kapil Verma, in demanding a review of the country's defense preparedness. Mr Verma, in a special mention, said that a grave threat to the country's security had arisen with the disclosure by the Pakistani nuclear scientist. Mr Verma demanded that the government must announce its policy on this sensitive subject. Several members demanded a debate on the issue.

All Party Convention Supports Punjab Chief Minister

BK011306 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 1 Mar 87

[Text] An all party convention on Punjab held in Chandigarh today expressed full support to the chief minister, Mr Barnala, in his fight against terrorist and fundamentalist forces. The leaders cutting across party lines pledged to make any sacrifice to safeguard the unity and integrity of the country. Mr Barnala told the convention that misuse of the Akal Takht [highest seat of Sikh religion] for achieving political ends will not be tolerated by the people any more. He said he will not relent in his efforts to bring peace to the state and maintaining the unity and integrity of the country. He pointed out not only the people of Punjab, but the entire nation has understood the game of fundamentalists and disruptive forces. Leaders of various political parties including the Congress-I, CPI-M, CPT, BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], Janata, Telugu Desam, AIADMK [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam], DMK, RSP [Revolutionary Socialist Party], AGP [Asom Gana Parishad], and Foreward Block addressed the convention. The convention is part of a comprehensive action plan evolved at an all party meeting held in Delhi recently. The action plan is to counter the threat posed by the terrorist and fundamentalist forces to the country's unity and integrity.

Reaction Continues to Recent Afghan Attacks

Yaqub Khan Protests 'Despicable Act'

BK271552 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, now in Geneva for the indirect talks on the Afghanistan issue, has strongly protested the attack by the Kabul administration's aircraft near Miram Shah. Before beginning consultations with UN representative Diego Cordovez this morning he said that he would inform him of Pakistan's view of this brutal attack. He said he would request Cordovez to apprise the UN secretary general of Pakistan's extreme concern and anger over the despicable act of the Kabul administration.

After the morning session Mr Cordovez said that the trend in the indirect talks toward solving the issue of the time frame for the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghansitan is positive and encouraging.

Junejo Stresses Need for AWACS

BK010259 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 1 Mar 87

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo has said that a close watch of Pakistani airspace will be maintained to check any attacking aircraft. Talking to newsmen in Rawalpindi last night, he said whenever indirect talks [on Afghanistan] are scheduled to begin or are underway, the other side mounts aggressive activities which are a matter of grave concern. The two recent attacks in the North-West Frontier Province have resulted in a massive loss of life and property. He said the government is determined to safeguard the country's borders.

Answering a question, the prime minister said Pakistan will stick to its principled stand on Afghanistan. He added that if the Soviet Union puts forward an appropriate and reasonable time frame for the withdrawal of its troops, the problem will be resolved.

Answering another question, Mohammad Khan Junejo said Pakistan desires to acquire AWACS planes to stop the violations of its airspace. These planes will be purchased subject to a U.S. decision in this regard. U.S. Defense Secretary Weinberger, during his last visit to Islamabad, said that Pakistan needs AWACS planes.

About the country's nuclear program, the prime minister said the program is totally peaceful; Pakistan does not intend to develop nuclear weapons. Pakistan is ready to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty provided other countries also do the same.

The prime minister said the second round of India-Pakistan talks on de-escalating tension is in progress and he hopes that an agreement will be reached for the pullout of forces from various sectors similar to the troop withdrawal from the Ravi-Chenab corridor.

Mohammad Khan Junejo also referred to the massive development activities now underway all over the country. He appealed to the press to highlight the development programs and to pinpoint any government's shortcomings. He said 60 percent of the schools established under the new light scheme will begin functioning next month. The situation in the interior of Sind has improved considerably and the Karachi situation will be normal soon.

Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Qazi Abdul Majid Abid was also present on the occasion.

Vows Retaliation Against Further Attacks

BK271708 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo has said that Pakistan's position on Afghanistan is very clear and is based on withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan, return of Afghan refugees to their homes, and the right of the Afghan people to establish the government of their choice. Speaking to newsmen at Peshawar airport this evening, he said it would be extremely appropriate to determine the period for the withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan at the indirect talks in Geneva. The Soviet Union also desires the withdrawal of its forces and it has, for the first time, established direct contacts with Pakistan on the Afghanistan issue.

On the bombing by the Kabul administration's planes near Miram Shah yesterday, the prime minister said that he has asked Provincial Governor Fida Mohammad Khan and the Federal Minister for States and Frontier Region Syed Qasim Shah to visit this area tomorrow and to assess the damages caused by the bombing.

In reply to a question, he said that the Pakistan Air Force has been directed to intercept planes trying to enter our airspace for bombing. We will be more alert henceforth and immediate retalliatory action will be taken in view of any such incident. Pakistan has to make all security measures because border activities and bombings always increase during indirect talks in Geneva.

Earlier, the prime minister visited Garhi Qamardin where several people were killed in an explosion on the 19th of this month. He told the people there that he has issued instructions to keep strict vigil and to identify saboteurs in order to arrest them before indulging in any sabotage activities. He assured that victims of the explosion will be given reasonable compensation. He said the present pathetic situation has been thrust on us due to the armed foreign intervention in Afghanistan. Due to this intervention, lakhs of Afghan people have had to leave their country and seek refuge in Pakistan. He lauded the people of NWFP [Northwest Frontier Province] for their generous hospitality toward Afghan refugees.

A dignitary from the area thanked the prime minister for visiting the village and said they will continue to look after the Afghan refugees who are their Muslim brethren. The prime minister recited scriptures for the salvation of the souls of the deceased and expressed sympathy for the bereaved families. On this occasion, NWFP Governor Fida Mohammad Khan, Chief Min-

ister Arbab Mohammad Jahangir Khan, federal ministers and Iqbal Ahmed Khan [law minister] and Syed Qasim Shah were also present. The prime minister also visited the Red Cross hospital and saw those wounded in the bombing near Miram Shah yesterday. [passage omitted on Junejo address to the people of areas in Peshawar on the government's welfare programs]

The prime minister has since returned to Rawalpindi.

Commentary on 'Senseless Slaughter'

BK281301 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1605 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Ghani Arabi commentary]

[Text] Yesterday's Afghan raid on two villages in north Waziri stan has taken a tragic toll of human life, the heaviest yet of the conflict triggered by the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. It was a senseless slaughter in more ways than one. Neither of the villages of Saidgai or Ghulamkhan had any military installation. The timings of the air raid show the only purpose was to catch the villagers shopping and kill as many as possible, and the apparent use of the incendiary show the object was to burn down the people's shops and dwellings. In both, the Kabul regime arpears to have eminently succeeded. However, the Soviet-Kabul regime has also advanced its professed aim of developing a national consensus is extremely doubtful [sentence as heard]. In fact, it may have undermined that objective with the brutality of the raid.

If the Communist Party chief, Najibullah, understands his own people, he should know they are alienated and not impressed by such show of force outside the battlefield against civilians, women, and children. If anything, the wanton destruction of the two Waziristan villages will tell the Afghan refugees: He himself who went back home bitterly confined and stabbed in his back through reconcilliation process he claims to have brought into motion. [sentence as heard].

In case the Soviets have launched the attacks on their own in the face of any contrary advance by him, Najibullah would recognize the carpet has been pulled from under his feet. It is hard to believe Moscow would take any precipitate action at a time it has staked its entire credibility in finding a peaceful political solution of the Afghan problem at the Geneva proximity talks just beginning to get underway. Surely, the Soviets cannot be so unimaginative as to seek to jeopardize everything they have worked so hard to achieve over the last few months.

If the Moscow-Kabul regime was trying to induce Islamabad to accept a political compromise, no such inducement was called for. It is already doing the very best it can. In fact, from the very beginning even when the freshly aroused feelings against the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan among the world community of nations was very strong, Pakistan has sought not any condemnation by name of the Soviet Union but its cooperation in finding a political settlement. Islamabad has made a series of accommodations over the last few years at Geneva to expedite a solution. Pakistan does not need any brutal bombing of its civilian population now to be nudged to the conference table. It is doing that for the last 5 years, cooperating with all concerned and hammering out step-by-step a series of compromises that could settle the 7-year old conflict.

According to UN representative Diego Cordovez all the four documents essential to an accord in Afghanistan has been agreed upon and are ready to be signed into a final agreement. The only gap [words indistinct] on the Soviet pullout timetable, which Moscow-Kabul is to provide.

Pakistan is seeking a short withdrawal schedule, not for any purpose of its own, but to ensure that the Afghan refugees being reassured enough to begin to go back home. The blistering attacks on their women and children, such as the one yesterday, do nothing to reassure them about their future in Afghanistan and, as such, are self-defeating.

Death Toll Rises to 33

BK281640 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 28 Feb 87

[Text] The death toll in the bombing by Kabul regime's warplanes at Matasangar and Khardand in Kurram Agency yesterday has risen to 33 with the death of 2 seriously injured persons. The number of injured accounted so far stands at 56. An official spokesman today told a team of journalists, including foreign correspondents, that at the time of bombing the Afghan refugees were busy getting their ration from the depot at their tentage village. As a result of the bombardment, the depot was completely destroyed, and drums of kerosene oil containing about 30,000 liters of oil were blown up. The journalists' team, which was taken to Matasangar this morning from Islamabad, visited the (?site) of yesterday's bombing. The journalists saw for themselves big craters because of bombing and some human body organs completely charred scattered over there. During their visit to Matasangar they also saw two Kabul aircraft violating Pakistan's airspace. The sound of artillery fire from across the border could be heard.

Talking to Radio Pakistan representative, two representatives of Afghan refugees, Mr (Shamim Mohammad Khan) and Mr (Syed Ghazi Mohammad), said there is a great indignation among Afghan refugees over this dastardly act of bombing of innocent people. They said such acts will not lower their morale.

The North West Frontier Province governor, Mr Fida Mohammad Khan, who visited Miram Shah in North Waziristan Agency and Parachinar in Kurram Agency today, praised the morale of the tribesmen in the face of heavy bombardment by Kabul regime's planes and ground violations. Talking to tribal elders and Afghan refugees at those places, he said the tribesmen are the real defenders of the geographical and ideological frontiers of Pakistan and would respond strongly to any aggression. The governor also met the members of the families of those who lost their lives or were injured in the bombardment and sympathized with them.

Attack May Weaken Geneva Talks

BK271539 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Text] It has been officially announced in Islamabad that the Government of Pakistan has taken very serious notice of the brutal shelling on the civilians of Saidgai and Ghulamkhan Bazaar villages by Kabul administration's planes yesterday. In the shelling, several persons were killed and many wounded. Pakistan reserves the right to give a fitting reply. The entire responsibility for the consequences of these continal criminal activities rests with the Kabul administration. Such activities may, among other things, vitiate the Geneva talks.

AFP Comments on Attacks

BK011030 Hong Kong AFP in English 0942 GMT 1 Mar 87

[Excerpts] Islamabad, March 1 (AFP)—The devastating Afghan bombing raids on Pakistan's border region, which claimed over 100 lives in two days last week, could not only doom the Geneva peace talks but cause further polarisation of opinion in Pakistan, observers here said.

Pakistan has already warned Kabul that its action on refugees camps and civilians "jeopardised prospects" of success at the UN mediated, indirect negotiations in Geneva, which resumed only last Wednesday. [passage omitted]

Pakistan has accused Kabul of "deliberately aggravating tension" and warned that it could take reprisals.

The raids coincide with proximity talks aimed at a negotiated settlement of the eight-year-old Afghan crisis. Foreign ministers of the two countries through the UN intermediary Diego Cordovez were currently discussing a timeframe for the withdrawal of Soviet troops.

The timing of the raids — the first on such scale since Kabul's January 15 announcement of a six-month cease fire — surprised observers, coming just as the much awaited Geneva parleys had got underway.

The local press speculated that it could be punitive retaliation to the mujahidins' rejection of Afghan leader Najibullah's invitation to the guerrillas to participate in his Communist-led regime and a reported surge in guerrilla activity. Afghan Deputy Defence Minister General Muhammed Nabi Azimi, in an interview with the Pakistani daily *[The] Muslim* today, acknolwedged that "60,000 guerrillas operating inside Afghanistan have become more active" since the unilateral ceasefire. He charged that 200 Stinger missiles supplied by the United States four months ago had had an impact on the intensity of the war and claimed that a reinforcement of 150 more such missiles was underway. According to the general, the Hezb-e Eslami, Jamiat-i Islami, and Ahmed Shah Masud's men were actively fighting the Kabul regime in the east, west, and north of the country.

But a leading Peshawar daily, *The Frontier Post*, questioned Afghanistan's intentions in its choice of area for reprisal. "Even if the majority of the people killed in Thursday and Friday's raids were refugees there is no proof that they were also among the militant activists", the independent daily said. The Kabul regime was apparently "allowing its urge to retaliate to run ahead of itself", the paper said. But with actions like these it was "actually playing into the hands of those who were eager to give its peace initiative a bad name and see it hanged'. But for Pakistan, Thursday and Friday's tragic episode, served as a "reminder that rightly or wrongly, whether it likes it or not it will continue to suffer the heat of the (Afghan) civil war as long as it lasts", the *Post* added.

The cross border attacks, air raids, and a wave of alleged "Afghan-inspired" terrorist acts have already triggered violent agitation against the refugees' presence in cities, with the authorities blaming left-leaning parties and its opponents of capitalising the situation.

The pro-Moscow Awami National Party (ANP) leader Abdul Wali Khan has charged that Pakistants have suffered because of the government's "wrong Afghan policy" and criticised refugee "involvement" in local politics.

As clashes took place for the first time in more than eight years between local people and Afghans living or trading in Peshawar, the right-wing Jamiat-i Islami which supports the guerrillas' struggle for an Islamic government, countered by accusing the ANP of supporting terrorism to foment a rift between local population and some three million refugees.

Border Talks With India Begin Again 27 Feb

BK271608 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Text] Formal talks between Pakistan and India on easing tension along the borders were held in Islamabad today. The Pakistani side is led by Foreign Secretary Abdus Sattar and the Indian side by External Affairs Secretary A. F. Gonsalves.

It is understood that the two sides agreed that the talks should be carried out in the same spirit as demonstrated at the first round of talks in New Delhi at the beginning of this month. The talks will continue tomorrow.

Earlier, Mr Gonsalves called on Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mr Zain Noorani. The minister of state expressed Pakistan's belief that military confrontation and the use of force by the two countries would prove devastating to both of them. He said Pakistan is desirous of maintaining tension-free and good neighborly relations with India. Mr Gonsalves said his government wants to establish friendly relations with Pakistan and (?promote) better understanding and cooperation between the two countries.

Indian Representative Meets Ziaul Haq

BK281718 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1700 GMT 28 Feb 87

[Text] Secretary of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs A.S. Gonsalves called on President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawal-

pindi this evening. The president expressed satisfaction at the successful implementation of the 4th February agreement, adding that he hopes that the current round of talks in Islamabad will further reduce tension at the borders. Gonsalves thanked the president and expressed satisfaction at the pace of the current talks.

Earlier in the day, the two delegations continued talks on concrete steps to ease border tension. The talks, which were held in a cordial atmosphere, will continue tomorrow as well.

Conveys Gandhi Message to Junejo
BK011720 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1700 GMT 1 Mar 87

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The Indian delegation led by External Affairs Ministry Secretary A.S. Gonsalves called on Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo in Rawalpindi this evening. Gonsalves briefed the prime minister on the talks relating to withdrawal of troops from India-Pakistan borders. He also delivered a message from Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to the Pakistani prime minister expressing satisfaction at the troop pullout from Ravi-Chenab sector.

'Considerable Progress' Reported
BK011529 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 1 Mar 87

[Text] The Pakistani and Indian delegations continued talks on withdrawing forces from various sectors of the border. Official sources report considerable progress at the talks on easing tension. The Indian delegation is being led by External Affairs Ministry Secretary A.S. Gonsalves and the Pakistani side by Foreign Secretary Abdus Sattar. Furthur talks between the two delegations will be held tomorrow.

UK Daily Cited on Existence of Nuclear Bomb
BK010605 Hong Kong AFP in English 0550 GMT 1 Mar 87

[Excerpt] London, March 1 (AFP) — A Pakistani nuclear expert revealed that his country has a nuclear bomb and will use it "if our existence is threatened" in an interview published in Sunday's edition of *The Observer* newspaper.

The expert, identified in the newspaper as Professor Abdul Qadir Khan, head of a top-secret facility for the production of enriched uranium at Kahuta, near Islamabad, said Washington knew about the weapon. He added: "Let it be clear that we shall use the bomb if our existence is threatened." But he said he hoped Pakistan and India would not use nuclear weapons against each other. "Whatever arrangements India suggests, we are willing to accept, providing it is equally applicable to both," he commented. Mr Khan, dubbed by *The Observer* the "father of the Islamic bomb," said his country had taken 7 years to develop an atomic weapon, compared with India's 12 years. [passage omitted]

Nuclear 'Expert' Denies Report
BK011639 Hong Kong AFP in English 1629 GMT 1 Mar 87

[Excerpt] London, March 1 (AFP) — A Pakistan nuclear expert was quoted by a British newspaper Sunday as saying his country had developed a nuclear bomb and would use the weapon "if our existence is threatened." *The Observer* quoted professor Abdul Qadir Khan, who it described as the head of a top-secret facility for producing enriched uranium at Kahuta, near Islamabad, as saying that Washington knew about Pakistan's bomb. He reportedly added: "Let it be clear that we shall use the bomb if our existence is threatened."

(But in Islamabad, Mr Khan called *The Observer*'s version of the interview "false and concocted" and denied that Pakistan had developed a nuclear weapon.

("Our modest research and development enrichment program is gaged only to meeting our growing energy requirements," he said in a statement published by the official Pakistan press agency.

(Referring to the interview, he said, "Some of my remarks have been taken out of context to mislead the world into believing that Pakistan possesses the nuclear weapons and that we have enriched uranium to 90 per cent or more."

(Pakistan's fuel enrichment program, he said, was solely aimed at providing commercial-grade uranium for the country's nuclear power program.

(Mr Khan said the interview in *The Observer* had been written by a journalist who called on him "without prior arrangement. Disclosure of this informal meeting and discussions is a breech of trust and is professionally unethical.") [passage omitted]

Spokesman Says Nuclear Policy 'Clear'
BK021119 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 2 Mar 87

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that Pakistan's policy on the nuclear issue is abundantly clear. It calls for no further spread of nuclear weapons and for keeping South Asia in particular free from nuclear weapons. In pursuit of this commitment, he said, Pakistan is prepared to accept international inspection and safeguards on its own nuclear program in a global, regional, or bilateral context. The spokesman said this in the context of a reported interview of Dr A.Q. Khan, which has already been contradicted by the scientist himself. He said it is obvious that the Indian correspondent used devious means for obtaining access to Dr. A.Q. Khan in order to lend credibility to a transparently motivated piece of journalism.

Musavi on U.S. 'Profound Crisis of Morale'

LD011750 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 1 Mar 87

[Text] Having attended this morning's Cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Musavi spoke to our correspondent on the Tower Commission's report.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr Musavi, would you please comment on the Tower Commission's report, which has revealed further issues relating to the White House and has, as a result, once again given prominence to the crisis in the U.S. Administration at world level?

[Musavi] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. To start with, the report reveals the true nature of the behind-the-scenes U.S. policies, a segment of which is thus exposed due to the prevailing hostilities between the various factions inside the United States. The fact is the policies pursued by the superpowers always tend to have considerable unethical and hidden overtones. These ugly and dirty practices truly support this fact, as their policies are full of such acts.

The report, as has already been reviewed in our country, proves the rightfulness of the Islamic Republic system, the forceful approaches made by it, and the weakness of the arrogant systems in regard to their internal crises. Evidently, over the past few months, this has been the biggest news item in America. The practices of U.S. politicians have therefore been exposed to the American people. As a result, they have become completely demoralized. This means that both in the Western world and in the United States itself the people have been subjected to a profound crisis of morale as well as a crisis of confidence in their officials. Obviously, the fact that this has deep roots is another issue.

At any rate, the issue has had wide repercussions in the United States. Consequently, it is quite natural now to see widescale attempts being made by the U.S. Administration to compensate to some extent for some of the intense bitterness produced by the report. These attempts include trips, contacts, and certain news reports. There are, however, certain news reports that are not publicized in the rest of the world and are confined to the United States itself. We know this. There are certain positions held by the Reagan administration that indicate, in a manner of speaking, that Reagan still enjoys power and is in control. However, it is believed that these positions have had no effect either on world public opinion or domestic American opinion. This is due to the existing contradictions and the disclosure of the lies uttered by the senior authorities in the arrogant U.S. community.

[Correspondent] Thank you. [end recording]

Khamene'i Issues Statement on Death of Commander

LD021124 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 2 Mar 87

[Excerpt] On the occasion of the martydom of the brave Islamic commander, (Hajj Hoseyn Kharrazi), the commander of Imam Hoseyn Division, the president and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, Khamene'i, issued a statement. [passage omitted]

Velayati to UN on Iraqi 'War of Aggression'

LD281434 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 28 Feb 87

[Message From Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar — date not given]

[Text] Your Excellency, during the past weeks we have been the victims of an unprecedented spate of air and missile attacks culminating in 4,000 innocent civilians martyred and more than 10,000 injured. I welcome your excellency's statement of 26 February 1987 and I call for the adoption of the principled position of the statement by other relevant UN organs with tangible and effective measures to ensure the meticulous observance of the rules of international law governing disputes.

Your excellency is obviously aware of the fact that, in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter, we are defending ourselves against a war of aggression. Just because we have been successful in our recent legitimate, defensive battles, fortunately and thanks to Almighty God and the heroic selfless deeds of Iran's Muslim people, that international organization should not adopt a stance whereby the criminal aggressor and the victims of the crime are placed on the same level.

As your excellency is fully aware, throughout this imposed war the Islamic Republic of Iran has displayed tremendous self-control concerning Iraq's deliberate barbaric raids on our population centers.

The examples available to the United Nations are ample witness to the fact that the Islamic Republic has not resorted to extremely limited, retaliatory, and preventive steps until it has explored all ways to compel Iraq to observe the norms of humanitarian international law; even thereafter the fire of the inevitable retaliatory operations by Islam's combatants has been aimed at Iraq's industrial areas after prior warning to the civilian population near those areas. The relatively small number of casualties among civilians in Iraq shows the humanitarian attentions of the Islamic Republic, even in launching its retaliatory operations.

Nevertheless, in accordance with its principled stances in accordance with the recognized world standards of international law, the Islamic Republic believes in the need for a meticulous observance of legal norms governing disputes. On the other hand, however, the Iraqi regime not only began the war of aggression but also initiated the war of the cities, directing its raids on heavily populated areas; furthermore, the Iraqi rulers have officially and repeatedly proclaimed their intention to launch extensive raids and to massacre innocent civilians as part of their war efforts and as a tactical move in the overall strategy of their aggressive war, a policy which blatantly pursues the Nazi concept of total war and violates the rationale and significance of recognized norms governing disputes, including humanitarian international law.

The Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes any verifiable international initiative, particularly your excellency's initiative, for the revival and effective enactment of measures aimed at halting the raids on the cities dated 12 June 1984, and declares its support for this effort and its undertaking to cooperate fully within such an acceptable framework. Moreover, it will participate in and cooperate with any important and effective international effort aimed at preventing a further weakening of the Geneva Protocol of 1925 — an important humanitarian and international document, the power of which has been undermined thanks to the unlawful and repeated use of chemical weapons by Iraq.

International public opinion expects the Security Council to play its proper role by condemning and punishing those who have been guilty in their crimes against peace by launching an aggressive war against the Islamic Republic of Iran, and also for perpetrating crimes against humanity and repeatedly violating the fundamental principles of international law governing disputes, including humanitarian international law.

Commentary Assesses Karbala'-5 Victories

NC010936 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 1 Mar 87

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary, entitled: "Karbala'-5: The Fresh Strategy for the Destruction of Iraq's War Machinery and the Iraqi Regime"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The Karbala'-5 operations were initiated with all the might and military planning possible in the wake of the Karbala'-4 operations, which had been launched 2 weeks earlier in the region south of Basra. On the basis of a report by the Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters released 50 days after the beginning of the Karbala'-5 operations, we will review and analyze the mindboggling statistics of the destruction of the Ba'thist forces in the region east of Basra, on the shores of Fish Lake and the Jasim River.

First, the choice of an appropriate venue and opportune moment is a fundamental factor in determining the outcome of a war. The Karbala'-5 operations sector, which is of special significance, proved auspicious as Islamic combatants armed with modern training and knowledge of amphibious military tactics shattered the complex defenses of the Ba'thist forces of Iraq. The Iraqi regime's impotence, which was clearly apparent to the world following its failure to check the Islamic combatants' onslaughts in the Bayt ol-Moqaddas [Jerusalem] operation, had led them to establish a most complicated system of surface-to-air defense on the fronts, with the cooperation of European experts. Political and military observers, noting the great similarity of this system with the defense tactics of the regime occupying Jerusalem, especially in the Shalamcheh region and around Basra, had asserted that surmounting these obstacles and defense barriers would be impossible.

International opinion also noted the fact that during the Karbala'-5 operations an official of a pro-Iraqi country would comment daily on the impending termination of the Gulf war due to the great losses of Iraqi war machinery and the decimation of its manpower. Iran's latest strategy, based on the destruction of Iraq's war machinery, began with the launching of the Karbala' operations. In most of these operations Iraq's losses of men and materiel have mounted increasingly.

According to political and military observers, the Iraqi regime has lost a major portion of its Armed Forces in the Shalamcheh sector. More than 115 brigades and divisions have been defeated, more than 80 aircraft downed, and massive quantities of ammunition and military equipment destroyed in consecutive defeats. Observers have concluded that they should face the facts and accept the defeat of the Iraqi forces. In any case, after years of the imposed war, Islamic Iran has made notable advances through mobilization of its abilities and dormant talents, implementing basic plans using tactical weapons and equipment. It has attained international stature in the field of electronic warfare, complicated radar, and missile directing systems.

Let us compare our progress and the training of our forces with the sophisticated armaments the superpowers have sent to Iraq. In terms of light and medium weapons, we have achieved remarkable progress. Evidence of the extensive production of these weapons is the great number of them in use on the fronts. Many innovations were incorporated in their manufacture, especially in their ability to repel enemy counterattacks, launched with hundreds of tanks.

The victorious aspects of Iran's Karbala'-5 operations were seen internationally through the failure of the Iraqi regime's false propaganda campaign in the first phase of the operations. The Iraqi regime declared emphatically that the Karbala'-5 operation would be the final attack by Iran, enlisting the support of international media. The fabrications and contradictions in Iraq's communiques, which were disseminated in confusion and haste, served only to further refute the false propaganda of the Iraqi rulers. News agencies and foreign radios, which now had access to the true facts and figures, were not inclined to believe the continuing lies and propaganda of the Baghdad regime and turned reluctantly to reports issued by the Islamic Republic of Iran. With the passage of time and the recurring triumphs in the course of the Karbala'-5 operations, they have acknowledged the extensive Iranian victories. [passage omitted]

The Islamic Republic of Iran steadfastly adheres to its principled stance of punishing the aggressor and eliminating the corrupt Ba'thist regime from Iraq, and it will continue to prove this with its victorious and decisive operations. The passage of time cannot erode the determination of the Muslim people or the combatants on the fronts.

Iraqi 'Defeats' Cause Military Command Changes

LD282135 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
2030 GMT 28 Feb 87

[Text] Defeats suffered by the Armed Forces of the Zionist regime in Iraq during the Karbala'-5 and 6 operations, have shaken the military-security system of the Saddamist Army, forcing changes and transfers inside the commanding ranks of the Joint Staff of the Iraqi Armed Forces as well as its security system.

The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq, quoting reliable sources inside Iraq and in Europe, reported: 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, head of Iraq's security organization, has been relieved of his responsibilities and reinstated as deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces of the Saddamist regime. Also, ('Abd al-Rahman al-Dawri), a military officer and a member of the Ba'th Party military bureau, has been installed as head of the security organization. Furthermore, Thabit Sultan al-Takriti is now chief of the Joint Staff of Iraq's Armed Forces.

The same report adds: Former Chief of the Joint Staff Major General 'Abd al-Javad Zanun was dismissed following the abject defeats suffered by the Iraqi Army during the Karbala'-5 and 6 operations and there have been no reports of his fate. Furthermore, Brigadier General Nizar al-Kharraji, who commanded an Iraqi division, has been appointed deputy chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces. According to the same report, following every pounding operation by the Islamic forces the Ba'thist regime has resorted to such changes in order to boost the lost morale of its militarymen and also to cover its defeats.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Iraqi Claim of Downing of 2 F-4's Denied

LD281639 Tehran IRNA in English 1615 GMT 28 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb 28, IRNA — A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH) categorically refuted an Iraqi allegation of having downed two Iranian F-4 jet-fighters.

The WIH spokesman said that Iranian Air Force jet-fighters heavily bombed Iraqi positions in Karbala'-5 operational theatre in nine different missions. The jet-fighters returned safely to bases after inflicting substantial casualties and damage on the enemy forces, said the spokesman.

"If the Iraqi regime tells the truth, why doesn't it show on Baghdad television the wreckage of the two jet-fighters, which it claims to have shot down?", asked the spokesman.

Further Allegations Termed 'Lies'

LD011050 Tehran IRNA in English 0923 GMT 1 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Tehran, March 1, IRNA — The Islamic Republic of Iran categorically denied Sunday's allegations of an Iraqi military spokesman on the downing of an Iranian plane and three helicopter gunships, Saturday.

A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters referred to the Baghdad allegations as "mere lies" and said that all Iranian fighter planes and helicopters after successfully carrying out their mission had returned to base safely. [passage omitted]

Enemy Activity Halted Near Al-'Amyah

LD281803 Tehran IRNA in English 1738 GMT 28 Feb 87

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Feb 28, IRNA — Coastal artillery fire of the Islamic Revolution's Guard Corps on Iraqi helicopter pads near Al-'Amyah platform halted enemy's reinforcement activities in this region Friday night and Saturday.

Several Iraqi gunboats also attempted to reach Al-Bakr platform through Khawr 'Abdallah waterway at day-break Saturday, but were forced to flee as they came under IRGC artillery fire, sustaining some damage.

'Blitz Attack' Scores New Victories

LD010719 Tehran IRNA in English 0710 GMT 1 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb 29, IRNA — Muslim forces of Iran in a blitz attack on Iraqi positions east of Basra, inflicted fatal blows on the Iraqi enemy and captured strategic areas, Saturday night.

The Khatem-ol-Anbiya' Joint Army and Islamic Revolution's Guards Headquarters in a statement Sunday morning said that following the completion of Karbala'-5 operations, the Iraqi Army, thinking in vain that Muslim forces of Iran were no longer in a state of alert, tried to make movements in the operational area.

The enemy, after sustaining fatal defeat in Karbala'-5 operations, tried to break through defense lines of Muslim combatants of Iran west of Karbala'-5 operational theater and score insignificant gains.

A meeting of the Iraqi Supreme Command Council in Baghdad chaired by Saddam Husayn Saturday afternoon is reported to be in this connection.

However, Muslim combatants of Iran in an ambush attack at the heart of Iraqi positions west of Karbala'-5 operational theatre, gained new victories and proved miscalculations of Iraqi rulers.

The Saturday night blitz of Iranian forces paralyzed the Iraqi enemy prior to taking any measure.

Four Iraqi Brigades 'Smashed'

LD010734 Tehran IRNA in English 0730 GMT 1 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 1, IRNA — Four Iraqi brigades southwest of the Fish Lake, Karbala'-5 operational region, were smashed by Muslim forces of Iran Saturday night.

A Khatem-ol-Anibiya' Headquarters statement said that a movement of the battered enemy troops in the area was crushed by an ambush attack of the Muslim forces of Iran at 22:00 hours local time.

The Iranian forces, after destroying enemy units, captured new areas, it added.

In Saturday night operations, headquarters of Iraqi Battalions One and Two of the Infantry Brigade 437 which had been reorganised, were surrounded by the Iranian forces and the two brigades were destroyed by 70 percent.

Meanwhile, it added, Infantry Brigade 116 of Iraqi Divison 2, which also had been reorganised and dispatched to the region, was smashed by 80 percent and most of its personnel were either killed, wounded, or fled the area.

Heavy loss and damage was inflicted on Iraqi Mechanized Brigades 24 and 27. A number of its personnel were killed or wounded. The statement added that the two brigades have become totally disorganised.

1,500 Iraqis Killed, Wounded

LD010805 Tehran IRNA in English 0750 GMT 1 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 1, IRNA — Muslim forces of Iran killed or wounded over 1,500 Iraqi troops and captured a number of others in their blitz attack on Iraqi positions west of Karbala'-5 operational theater, Saturday night. So far, 50 of the Iraqi POW's, captured in the latest operations have been transferred behind the war fronts.

In their blitz attack, Muslim combatants of Iran inflicted heavy casualties and damage on Mechanized Brigades 24 and 27 and destroyed the Mechanized Brigade 20 by 40 percent.

The Muslim forces of Iran destroyed 45 enemy tanks, personnel carriers, and engineering equipment, and seized many others intact.

The fierce fighting is still continuing in the operational area to smash remnants of the Iraqi forces.

Fortifications 'Captured'

LD010837 Tehran IRNA in English 0810 GMT 1 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 1, IRNA — Muslim combatants of Iran captured one of the strongest fortifications and defense lines of the Iraqi enemy southwest of the Fish Lake in their blitz attack west of Karbala'-5 operational theater, Saturday night.

The Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters said in a statement Sunday morning that a large number of Iraqi troops were killed or wounded in the capture of the fortifications.

The statement said that the Muslim forces of Iran also took control of areas west of the Fish Lake, and hold the upper hand in this region.

The Muslim combatants of Iran are checking all enemy movement in the area and have their positions under constant fire.

'Newly Gained Positions' Consolidated

LD011020 Tehran IRNA in English 0859 GMT 1 Mar 87

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., March 1, IRNA — Enemy troop build-up was completely smashed in the Saturday night blitz attack of the Muslim forces of Iran on Iraqi positions west of the Karbala'-5 operational region.

Shattering blows dealt [to] four Iraqi brigades has spread panic among Iraqi forces in the region.

The region is filled with bodies of Iraqi forces and ambulances are reported busy ferrying the injured. This is indicative of heavy losses sustained by the Iraqi forces. The area is also littered with burnt Iraqi tanks, personnel carriers, and military equipment. Smoke of the burning Iraqi equipment billows skyward in the area.

The Iraqi forces who have lost their defence lines are reportedly trying to build up new lines, however, heavy fire of the Muslim forces of Iran has made these efforts totally useless.

The Muslim combatants are reported consolidating their newly gained positions with battle still raging with enemy troops.

Iraqi Brigade 'Remnants' Smashed

LD011023 Tehran IRNA in English 0901 GMT 1 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 1, IRNA — Remnants of Iraqi Brigade 437 which suffered destruction amounting to 70 percent in the Saturday night blitz attack of Muslim forces of Iran west of Karbala'-5 operational theater, was smashed Sunday morning.

Muslim combatants of Iran also destroyed Brigade 605, a battalion of the Mechanized Brigade 8 and a commando brigade of the Second Division by 40 to 60 percent.

A large amount of Iraqi munitions were destroyed and a considerable amount seized intact by Muslim forces of Iran.

Statement Details 'Timely Attack'

LD011150 Tehran IRNA in English 1104 GMT 1 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 1, IRNA — Iraqi forces, in a bid to break through the defense lines of the Muslim Forces in Karbala'-5 operational region, and also [to] raise the morale of its badly battered forces, planned a series of moves in the region Saturday night which were all thwarted by the timely attack tf the Muslim forces of Iran, said a Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters statement Sunday.

Iranian troops at 22:00 hours local time (18:30 hours GMT) Saturday night in a blitz attack on enemy positions southwest of the Fish Lake inflicted further devastating blows on the Iraqi enemy, it added.

In these attacks, Infantry Brigade 116 of Second Division and Mechanized Brigades 605, 20, and 27 were smashed by 30-80 percent and their personnel were either killed, wounded, or captured. Armoured Brigade 59 of the 12th Division and Commando Brigade of the Boand Corps suffered destruction of 30 to 40 percent.

Meanwhile, added the statement, bases of Battalions One and Two and Infantry Brigade 437 of the enemy which was recently reorganised and dispatched to the region, were surrounded and suffered 70 percent destruction.

In [the] Saturday night operation, some 2,000 Iraqi forces were killed, wounded, or captured and so far 90 of the POW's have been transferred behind the war fronts, added the statement.

In addition some 45 tanks and personnel carriers of the enemy were destroyed by the tank hunting groups of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps and a large number of engineering equipment seized intact.

In their latest operation the Muslim combatants by taking over fortifications of the enemy southwest of the Fish Lake, took over additional areas west of the lake, which enables them to maintain initiative of action and check any enemy movement in the region and keep Iraqi positions under fire, concluded the statement.

Iraqi Depots in Karbala'-5 Region Hit
LD021039 Tehran IRNA in English 1037 GMT 2 Mar 87

Enemy Troop Sites Aerial Blitzed

[Text] Tehran, March 2, IRNA — The Iranian fighter-bombers heavily bombarded Iraqi troop concentration centers and munitions depots including armoured equipment, in Karbala'-5 operational region, Monday, said a Joint Staff headquarters statement here the same day.

In these attacks, it added, heavy damage and casualties were inflicted on the Iraqi forces. The Iranian planes returned safely to bases after the mission.

Communique Details Basra Pounding
LD271702 Tehran IRNA in English 1646 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb 27, IRNA — A military communique released here Friday said that Iran's warplanes had heavily pounded Iraqi Army positions east of the Iraqi city of Basra four times early Friday morning and a fifth time at 15:53 hours (11:27 GMT) local time inflicting heavy damage upon enemy troops and safely returning to bases in Iran.

The communique released by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran [communique unnumbered as received] said also that throughout the war fronts Friday Iran's Muslim combatants had maintained their positions and responded heavily to the Iraqi fire checking their operations and inflicting heavy casualties on them.

Exchange of artillery fire continued in most battlefronts Thursday raging somewhat more heavily in Sumar and Talaiyeh.

Iran's Muslim combatants also checked road construction operations of Iraqi troops in Sidakan [name as received] Thursday, and also hampered their troop relocation activities near Qasr-e Shirin.

In Nahr-e Anbar Thursday the Iranian forces shelled one artillery unit of the Iraqi forces inflicting heavy damage on it.

Elsewhere in a northwestern operation theater a patrol unit of the Iranian forces infiltrated enemy lines and in an ensuing clash with the enemy troops inflicted damage on them. The patrol unit of the Iranian forces also seized undamaged 17 Kalashnikovs, and carried the haul to their bases this side of the battlefronts.

On Thursday the Gendarmerie forces of Iran set afire at least 10 enemy posts, two heavy and light vehicles, killing a large number of the Iraqi soldiers.

Communique No 2,761
LD281718 Tehran IRNA in English 1712 GMT 28 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb 28, IRNA — Iranian fighter bombers pounded Iraqi positions east of Basra in nine sorties Saturday and returned safely to bases, said Joint Staff Communique No 2,761 here on the same day.

The communique said the Iranian Navy intercepted eight foreign cargo ships in the Hormuz Strait Friday but allowed them to continue voyage since no Iraq-bound cargo was found on board the vessel.

Iranian shelling silenced enemy artillery fire in Piranshahr, Sardasht, and Marivan operational regions Friday and Saturday, inflicting casualties and losses on Iraqi troops and positions in these regions, said the communique.

An Iranian patrol unit took advantage of the bad weather and infiltrated deep into the Iraqi positions in heights in the western fronts Friday night inflicting considerable casualties and losses on the enemy, the communique said.

In the southern fronts, the communique said, artillery fire of the Muslim forces on Iraqi strongholds set afire several enemy heavy gun emplacements and trucks as well as a munition dump. Booms of explosions were heard and flames were seen for several hours.

Reconnaissance flights of Iraqi helicopters were checked by Iranian anti-aircraft fire in Basra operational region forcing them to flee, the communique said.

Elsewhere, Iranian Gendarmerie forces disrupted Iraqi activities in parts of the western and southern fronts destroying several engineering pieces and killing a number of enemy soldiers, the communique concluded.

communication sets.